UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1996/842
10 October 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 9 OCTOBER 1996 FROM THE VICE-MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF AFGHANISTAN ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Based upon the instructions I have received from the authorities of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, I have the honour to state the following:

As I stated in my address to the General Assembly during the general debate on 7 October 1996, the Taliban mercenaries used some type of chemical or internationally banned weapon against the forces of the Ministry of Defence of the Islamic State of Afghanistan on 25 and 26 September 1996 in Lata-band, Band-i-Ghazi and Pul-i-Charkhi, battlefield areas situated east of the capital, where the resistance against them was firm and tenacious.

It is our firm belief that the said weapon was provided to the Taliban by their cross-border supporters.

We are awaiting the available evidence regarding the above case, which will be submitted to the Council in due time.

Given the fact that the Taliban attacks against the Government forces are still continuing in the areas north of Kabul, and as the resistance to these attacks by the Government forces is firm and effective, the Islamic State of Afghanistan is urgently calling on the Security Council to use its international influence to prevent the repetition of such criminal acts.

Since Saturday, 6 October 1996, the forces of the Islamic State have been causing heavy blows to the forces of the Taliban militias and gaining ever more territories, among them the districts of Tagab, Nejrab, Kohistan and Alasai, as well as the Bagram airbase located 45 kilometres north of the capital.

As the fear of Taliban chances of losing control of the capital is rising, their supporters have intensified their action by bringing more and more militia and weaponry in support of their mercenaries.

According to the reports reaching here, the continued reinforcement of the Taliban from Pakistani territory is taking place at the border, both through Torkham in the Province of Nangarhar and Spin-Boldak of Kandahar.

The reinforcement of the Taliban mercenaries further escalates tension and lessens the chance of a negotiated settlement under the auspices of the United Nations. It renders the tasks of the head of the United Nations Special Mission in Afghanistan more strenuous.

The Islamic State of Afghanistan earnestly hopes that the United Nations, through the Office of the Secretary-General in Afghanistan, will take appropriate measures in order to put under supervision the above border crossings, thus avoiding additional tension in the already volatile situation.

I request that this letter be distributed to the Member States of the United Nations as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abdul Rahim GHAFOORZAI
Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs